

# Treasure Mountain Home

A Centennial History  
of  
Park City, Utah

by  
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and  
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within the townsite boundaries. Some claimed he received the property for the aid he gave the townsite people. How easy it would have been for him to have taken a civic interest and win the people's friendship by helping them, but his interests were always those of the Ontario and he cared little for the people's problems.

The town continued to grow despite Chamber's actions and the townsite company, or perhaps in spite of them. Soon after the townsite was obtained a waterworks company was started by Col. William Ferry and Nims began advertising for new businesses to settle in the town. Board sidewalks were built, side streets were surveyed, and still more people poured in. New cabins were built along Silver Creek, one of the first erected by Henry Cunningham near where Ontario Canyon and Empire Canyon creeks came together. Cunningham made charcoal for the mines and had a small coke oven near the mouth of Woodside Gulch in Empire Canyon.

As in many early mining camps of the Great Basin, Park City's population was a mixture of Irish, Cornish, English, Scots, Chinese, and Scandinavian. The completion of the trans-continental railroad in 1869 found thousands of "Cousin Jacks", "Micks", and "Celestials" foot-loose and unemployed and many of them found places to settle in camps like Park City. The Cornishmen and Irishmen were natural enemies while the Scots considered themselves above both. Fights in the camps saloons were common and cries of "Ye bloody Mick, you!" and "Ye damned Cousin Jack!" were often heard coming from behind the swinging doors. The Scots were clannish and lived apart, many of them settling at Lake Flat where the high mountains and sparkling little lake reminded them of the "bonnie highlands" they had left behind.

The Cornishmen were the world's best miners. While still only children they were sent into the deep, wet mines of Cornwall where they held a candle for their father or brother until they were big enough to begin working.

Like the coal miners and craftsmen of Scotland their working conditions were almost intolerable and men from both countries left their homes to go to America. In Ireland, potato famines left much of the population near starvation, one of the worst famines occurring in 1847.

In the next ten years nearly two million Irish emigrated to America, many of them finding work on the new trans-continental railroad and in the metal mines of the West. The Swedes and the Finns, although fewer in number, came first to find work in the sawmills, cutting railroad ties and mine props, and gradually found their way into the mines.

Like all western mining camps Park City had its Chinese population and soon a Chinatown began to grow up behind the camp's Main Street under the brow of Rossie Hill. Rossie Hill got its name because so many people who settled on its flanks came from Rossie, N.Y. Most of Rossie Hill's residents were Englishmen or "Cousin Jacks" and they looked down with dislike at Chinatown below them and through which they must pass in order to get to town. Years later, in 1886, their problems were solved when a long, narrow, foot-bridge called the "china bridge" was built from just off Main Street, passed high over the Chinatown below, and connected with Rossie Hill beyond.

It was painted bright red and was wide enough and strong enough for a horseman to ride across. For years it was a reminder of Park City's turbulent past and though built to avoid the Chinese it was a memorial to them until it was burned in the great fire of 1898.

After the fire it was replaced with a far less imposing bridge which served for over a half century before it was torn down after being declared unsafe. There was hardly a boy who passed over the old bridge that never carried a pocket full of rocks to throw down on the tin roofs of the long suffering "Celestials" and then run for his life from the mad, fist shaking, Orientals below.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DO hereby certify that  
[Name] is a citizen of the United States of America  
and is entitled to the rights and privileges of citizenship  
under the Constitution and laws of the United States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the United States of America at the City of [City], State of [State], this [Day] day of [Month], 19[Year].

[Signature]  
[Title]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
BUREAU OF PRISONS  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Many of the Chinese raised fine gardens and peddled their produce from house to house in great baskets which hung suspended from long poles which they carried across their shoulders. Whenever a sale was made the peddler would make a mark in mysterious Oriental characters by the side of each customer's doorway showing the amount owed and would return to collect his pay when payday came to the mines. Although Park City's population figures seldom showed more than two to three hundred Chinese every mine boarding house employed a dozen or more as cooks, waiters, and gardeners and many of these were never included in the population figures.

The Chinese wore loose-fitting, formless clothes while working and also had very colorful and fancy costumes to wear while celebrating. On Chinese New Year they would parade through the streets, some concealed beneath a great fire-breathing dragon, while others passed out trinkets and strange nuts and candies to the spectators. A Chinese funeral was a spectacular event, especially when the camp's Oriental population numbered several hundred. A parade of mourners in strange costumes would make its way through the city streets to the cemetery, accompanied by weird music and the popping of fire-crackers. Colored bits of paper would be dropped along the way to mis-lead evil spirits and great quantities of rich and fancy foods would be left at the grave to feed the departed on his unknown journey.

In reporting the death of one ancient Chinese the Park Record editor said "He had been ailing for a long time and for months looked as if he were living simply to save funeral expenses. He was buried by his fellow 'Chinks' with his hat on so he wouldn't catch cold on his way to the Happy Hunting Grounds!"

A later Record article described another Chinese funeral in which an important woman member of the Chinese community had died. She was dressed in the finest silks and jewelry and was laid out in a fine white casket.

The following information was obtained from the records of the [redacted] Department, dated [redacted].

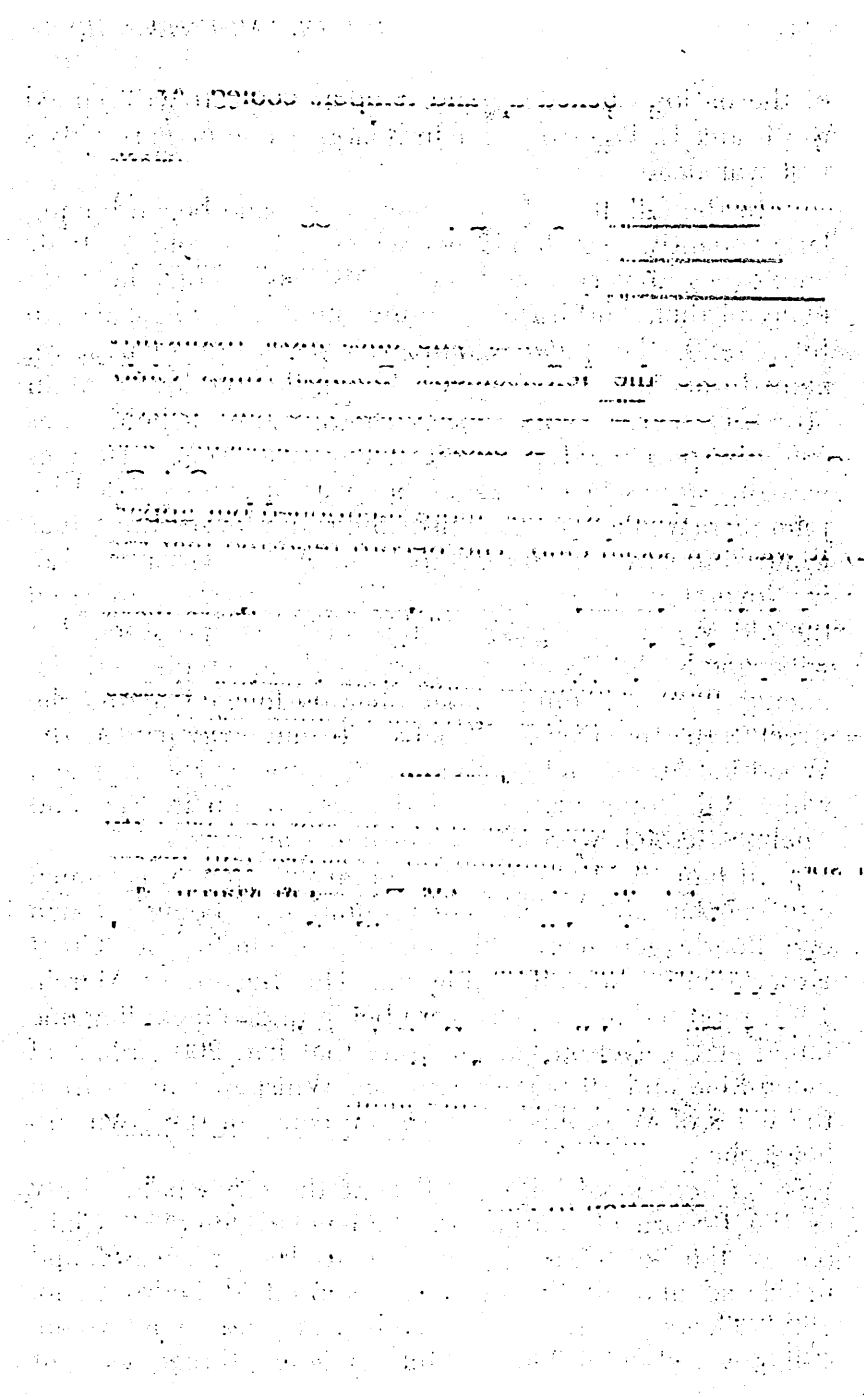
[The remainder of the page contains extremely faint, illegible text.]

of the nation's first American Legion posts. It was named the Frank E. Peterson Post in honor of one of Park City's first war dead.

In the fall of 1919, the Judge Company began buying large quantities of foodstuffs which they resold to their employees at very low prices. This was a great help for many of them had little or no income due to the strike. In July, 1920, the Judge Company opened its own store, named the Summit County Mercantile, on lower Main Street. Groceries, work clothes, shoes, and household items could be purchased on credit at low cost. August Harmes was the store's first manager but was later succeeded by John 'Scotty' Baxter. To satisfy their employees the Silver King Company was forced to open their own store also. In November, 1920, the Silver King Company purchased the old W. H. Roy grocery store building and stocked it with goods that could be purchased on credit and deducted from the miners' pay. It was located across the street from the Dewey Theatre site and was named the Woodside Store. Jack Welsh was the store's first manager, while Bill Horan was one of the last to run it. Earl and Thelma Reseigh were also long-time managers.

In January, 1920, W. D. 'Tommy' St. Jeor was named city marshal and he had the reputation of being a tough one. Bootleggers were still a major problem for the "Great Experiment" was still going on. The Record of March, 1921, reported many stills were being raided including one found at the Nelson Queen Mine that had 200 gallons of moonshine and 16 barrels of mash. Whiskey runners from the wilds of Wyoming were a main cause of the lawmen's headaches.

An occasional killing still kept the city's police busy as the Record of March 16, 1923 noted. June St. Clair, one of the "girls" in the "red light district", was found murdered and all the evidence pointed at Pedro Cano. City officers followed the bloody trail and found Cano, still covered with blood. Mob violence threatened but





Cano was hurriedly locked up and tempers cooled. At his trial he was given the death sentence but received a last-minute reprieve from Gov. George H. Dern. The reprieve was temporary, however, for in May, 1925, Cano faced a firing squad at the Utah State Prison.

The 1920's must have been the heyday of the social club at Park City for there were many whose activities were reported in the Record. The ones most frequently mentioned were the Jeffersonians, Bonnes Ames Club, Silver Bridge Club, Evening Card Club, The Jolly Dozen, Octagon Club, the Long & Short Club, Athenaeum, and several others referred to only as the D.O.E.O., the O.A.C., and the F.O.P. There was one more mentioned but apparently it wasn't a social club. The Record reported that the Ku Klux Klan burned a fiery cross near the Ontario Mill and added that where they met or how many there were no one seemed to know.

A little more legitimate sport than burning crosses became more popular in the 1920's also. Skiing, which had changed from a necessity to a past-time, was fast becoming an organized sport.

In March, 1922, the Utah Ski Club met at Park City and spent a day of ski jumping on Treasure Hill where local skiers had built a jump. Alf Engen, for years the best known name in skiing, was with the group and selected a spot near the Creole Mine where the next year's meet would be held. The following January the group met again at J. J. Fitzgerald's store. Forty-two skiers attended with each bringing a lunch and a tin cup for coffee. The group jumped at the Creole Mine jump and toured King Con Ridge above. Motion pictures taken at their 1926 meet were shown on RKO Pathe news films in many theatres and attracted wide attention to Park City skiing. Probably none of the little group or any of the townspeople watching them realized the impact that skiing would have on the city's future.

In September, 1923, a new store was opened by the

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Skaggs chain, Dr. Bardsley announced he would build a new two-story brick building, and John Rugar became manager of the American Theatre. It wasn't long until Rugar headed a group that raised \$50,000 to build the fine new Egyptian Theatre on the site where the old Dewey Theatre had been. It was built of brick, seated 450 people, and opened on Christmas Day, 1926. The Daisy Stage was housed in a new brick building also, just across the street from the New Park Hotel.

"Old Grover," the Chinese, died at Park City in March, 1926. For over 30 years he had been a friendly and familiar figure in Park City. Few Park City residents knew his real name was Quom Nom Low or that he signed his name Quom Nom Low de Grover. He had a wife living in China, who had never been in America, and a son known as Joe Grover. For the next 30 years Joe Grover would be just as well liked, and familiar a figure as "Old Grover" had been.

Another death in March, 1926, caused considerably more excitement than the death of "Old Grover."

On March 12, while waiting to start shift at the Judge Tunnel, a miner named Herbert Crouse became involved in an argument with a Mexican miner named Pantoj. A few names were called, blows were exchanged, and then to the horror of the watching miners Pantoj suddenly pulled a knife and stabbed Crouse three times in the chest. Crouse fell dead in front of his friends and only the arrival of Sheriff Clark prevented a lynching. Miners at the Judge Mine refused to enter the mine unless all the Mexicans employed there were fired immediately.

Mine superintendent George Kruger refused the miner's ultimatum and the men walked off the job and returned to town making mob action appear imminent. City officials closed all public places to prevent trouble and county officers and deputies from the American Legion patrolled the streets to maintain order. The following Sunday the miner's union called for a strike against the Judge Mine

